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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP 0231
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 MAPUTO 000952

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KMCA EAID ECON OVIP AFIN OTRA MZ

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED FOR MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP (MCC) OFFICER MARIA PACHON TO TRAVEL TO MOZAMBIQUE.

REF: MCC 484

¶1. Embassy Maputo welcomes and grants country clearance for MCC Officer Maria Pachon to travel to Mozambique, from August 31, 2007 until March 27, 2008. The purpose of this trip is to act as the Acting Deputy Resident Country Director for Mozambique. Please advise as soon as possible regarding any schedule or itinerary changes; refer to paragraph 13 regarding visa requirements.

¶2. Point of Contact: Cassia Carvahlo Pacheco, Acting Resident Country Director, will be Point of Contact. She can be contacted at:

-- Office telephone: (258) 2135-21-60
-- Cellular: (258) 84-785-1206

¶3. Hotel Reservations and Expeditor: Post has made reservations at the Girassol Hotel. The rate for a single room is \$144 single. Maputo per diem is currently 224 USD (146 USD for lodging and 78 USD for meals/incidentals). The hotel accepts dollars, meticais, Visa, MasterCard, DinerQs Club (credit cards) for payment of hotel bills. The hotel can be contacted at:

-- Telephone: (258) 21-36-0360
-- Fax: (258) 21-36-0330
-- E-mail: reservsgirassol@visabeira.co.mz
Please note that an Embassy expeditor will provide pick up and drop off services at the airport.

¶4. Medical Services: Maputo has limited medical facilities. Visitors will have to be medevaced in the event of a major injury or illness. In the past, we have had visitors face serious medical difficulties because details of their medevac insurance were not readily available. Direct Hire employees (not contractors) of the Department of State, USAID, Department of Defense, CDC, and Peace Corps need not take any further action. Direct Hire employees of other U.S Government agencies are requested to provide to their control officer before arrival a name and 24-hour point of contact for their agency that can authorize medical evacuation. Contractors are requested to provide to their control officer before arrival the name, phone number, and policy number of their medevac insurance provider(s) for use in case of emergency.

¶5. Health: Travelers are advised that chloroquine resistant malaria is present in Mozambique. The most recent guidance from the Department of State Medical Office recommends weekly use of mefloquine as the drug of choice for malaria prophylaxis in chloroquine-resistant areas. Mefloquine must be started one to two weeks before arriving at post. Daily doxycycline is an alternative regimen. Doxycycline must be started three days before arriving at post. Both malaria prophylaxis medications must be continued for four weeks after departing post.

¶ 6. Security and Required Briefing: TDY visitors spending more than 48 hours in Mozambique must obtain a security briefing from the Embassy's Regional Security Office. The biggest threat facing U.S. citizens visiting Mozambique is crime. The State Department has designated Mozambique a critical-threat post for crime. Street crime and vehicle hijackings are common and can be violent. Visitors must be vigilant when out in public areas and should not display jewellery or other items of high value. Visitors should avoid carrying backpacks or purses, as these can draw unwanted attention of would-be muggers. Isolated areas, such as along the Marginal (the Maputo road along the sea), should be avoided as joggers and pedestrians have been mugged frequently, even during daylight hours.

¶ 7. There are no known terrorist groups active in Mozambique and no current indications that U.S. citizens are being targeted by terrorist organizations.

¶ 8. The police are poorly paid, poorly equipped, and lack the professionalism that U.S. citizens are accustomed to in the United States. Visitors requiring emergency assistance should not rely on local emergency services, but should contact the Marine Security Guard at Post One at +258 (21) 49-07-23. Mozambican law requires that all persons carry an identity document, such as a passport, when out in public and produce it if requested by police. A copy of passport identity and visa pages is acceptable. There are certain areas in the city of Maputo where pedestrian traffic is prohibited, e.g., in front of the presidential offices located north of the Hotel Polana on the seaside of Avenida Julius Nyerere and on the Monument to Mozambican Heroes near the Maputo airport. Such areas are sometimes marked with international "no trespassing" signs/symbols.

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¶ 9. Overland travel after dark is extremely dangerous due to poor road conditions, lack of emergency services, and the increased potential for vehicle hijackings. Official Americans serving in Mozambique, including those on TDY, are prohibited from overland travel outside city limits during the hours of darkness.

¶ 10. Consular Registration: All TDY visitors spending more than two workdays in Maputo are required to register with the Consular Section in the Chancery to ensure that the Mission has current emergency contact information for each visitor.

¶ 11. Financial Matters: With the exception of the main hotels, Mozambique is essentially a cash economy. Credit cards are of limited utility. Vendors will accept U.S. dollars (or at times South African rand) in lieu of the local currency, the metical. For a day trip to Maputo, we recommend visitors bring with them USD 100 in cash for spending money. Dollars can be exchanged at any bank or currency exchange facility. Embassy Maputo recommends against the use of travelers checks, as transaction charges are uniformly high. Please note that Embassy Maputo will need fiscal data in the event that extensive services or goods are required during the visit. Mozambican Airlines (LAM) accepts the American Express credit card. Please note that charge limits are in effect on most credit card transactions, and hotel bills need to be settled every few days.

¶ 12. Currency: On July 1, 2006, Mozambique introduced its new currency: the New Metical (abbreviated MTn.) At current exchange rates, 1 USD equals approximately 26 MTn. The largest New Metical note is 1,000 MTn and the smallest New Metical note is 20 MTn. For further guidance, please refer to the images of the New Metical on our intranet site at <http://maputo.state.gov/Sections/FMO/fmo.htm>.

¶ 13. Visas and Airport Departure Taxes: Visas are required

for entry into Mozambique, and Embassy Maputo urges travelers to have them prior to travelling. Travelers arriving from a country without a Mozambican embassy can get visas at the airport or land border entry points for 20 USD or 300 MTn. Those arriving from a country with a Mozambican embassy can obtain visas at the airport or land border entry points for 25 USD. Diplomatic visitors without visas will be issued visas at their border entry point -- a process that may take up to 30 minutes. There is an airport departure tax payable only in cash, of 20 USD or equivalent in Metical or Rand for regional flights, 8 USD for domestic flights and 20 USD for intercontinental flights.

Please note that non-permanent personnel, assigned 90 days or less, are granted a one-year multi entry visa with a time stipulation determined by the time they requested to stay in country. Recently, there have been problems with the time stipulation written for TDY personnel. It is imperative to review the visa granted to ensure that the time stipulation exceeds the required length of stay. Otherwise, a trip out of the country is required to prevent an overstay. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will not change the visas issued at the Mozambican Embassy in Washington, DC. Incoming TDY personnel should verify the length of their visa before arriving to post.

¶14. Luggage Precautions: Post urges travelers to keep in mind restrictions on carry-on luggage on international flights. At present, there are restrictions on carrying liquids, gels, and cosmetics on board international flights leaving the United States.

¶15. Travelers also should bear in mind that security of checked baggage is a significant problem for travelers who transit Johannesburg airport. Many items have been stolen from checked bags, including the checked bags themselves. The items stolen most often are electronics (including I-Pods, cameras, and alarm clocks), toiletries (such as cosmetics, soap, shaving kits and cologne) and shoes (especially running/athletic shoes). Please note that a locked bag does not ensure security. One security measure that seems to meet with some success is to have your luggage stretch-wrapped at your point of departure. The stretch-wrapping makes it more difficult for the thieves to gain access to your luggage. Be aware that flights between Johannesburg and Maputo are often serviced by a small plane with little space for carry-on luggage. This may require passengers to check their larger carry-on items. Please ensure your valuables are kept in a bag small enough to carry on your lap to keep them with you at all times. We take this problem very seriously and are doing what we can

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to help aid a solution. In brief, please:

- Leave behind irreplaceable valuables;
- Always lock your bags;
- Have your luggage stretch-wrapped when possible;
- Keep your valuables with you in a small carry-on;
- Make sure that your carry-on luggage complies with current international restrictions/regulations.

Chapman